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IC 75-2592
17 November 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED], MPRRD

THROUGH: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: The Alert Memorandum as an Accomplishment During FY 75

1. In August 1974 the DCI asked for USIB consideration of a special procedure for alerting the national policy maker to the potential danger of an unfolding situation as early as possible in the unfolding process. Such a procedure would put WSAG formally on notice that the Community sees the possibility of a major problem, inform it of steps taken to improve intelligence collection, and, if appropriate, recommend that WSAG meet on the problem. Procedures for this special intelligence art form, the Alert Memorandum, were drawn up by the Intelligence Community Staff for USIB and published in January 1975.

2. After the first 15 Alert Memoranda had been produced (dealing with [REDACTED] the DCI directed that a survey be made on how well the system has served him, the Community, and the high-level consumer. The survey revealed substantial agreement among both producers and senior-level consumers that the basic concept is sound; that Alert Memoranda are being seen--and their message noted--by principals and senior aides in the national security decision process; and that, so far, the system has not been seriously overused nor, except possibly in the Mayaguez incident, underused.

[REDACTED]
Product Review Division

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DCI/IC/PRD/ [REDACTED]

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